

In re Appln. of RATLEDGE et al.
Application No. 10/030,700

REMARKS

Claims 48 and 51 are canceled by this amendment, and claims 34, 37-40, 43-47, 49, 50, 74, 76, 78, 79, 81, and 82 remain pending.

Several changes have been made in the specification to improve its form. These changes merely conform the specification to the pending claims and do not constitute the addition of new matter.

All of the pending claims, with the exception of claim 50 and claim 74, have been amended to describe the invention more clearly. These amendments are essentially editorial in nature and do not constitute the addition of new matter. For example, references to "a compound selected from the group consisting of acetic acid and an acetate ion" and to "the compound" have been deleted, and the claims have been amended to simply refer to "acetic acid and/or acetate ions". Applicants submit that this amendment merely simplifies the language of the claim and does not affect the claim scope. Claims 38, 39, 43, and 44-46 have been amended to delete redundant verbiage and simplify the language of the claims. For the Examiner's convenience a clean copy of the amended claims is attached.

The basis for the amended claim language may be found within the original specification, claims and drawings. For example, claim 47 is supported at, for example, page 6, lines 10-14. Claim 81 is supported at, for example, at page 21 in Table 3 (column 5, row 11). Claim 82 is supported at, for example, at page 21 in Table 3 (column 7, row 8). Entry of the above is respectfully requested.

In view of the amendment herein, the application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 20, 2005
SDS:ves

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this Response (along with any documents referred to as attached or enclosed) is being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Attention: Examiner I. Marx, Art Unit 1651, Facsimile Number 571-273-8300, on the date indicated.

Date: April 20, 2005

Shannon Schemel
(Typed or printed name of person transmitting)

Shannon Schemel
(Signature of person transmitting)

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